

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01879 191634Z

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2226

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 1879

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: PRESS REVIEW: FAHMY BEFORE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

1. MAIN STORY IN ALL THREE ARABIC DAILIES REPORTS FONMIN FAHMY'S APPEARANCE BEFORE JOINT MEETING OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ARAB AFFAIRS COMMITTEES. AMONG POINTS MADE ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WERE: A) CONTINUED ISRAELI "ROLL-BACK" (ARABIC "INHISAR") FROM ARAB TERRITORIES IS PRELUDE, NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR THE GENEVA TALKS. THIS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT HARM PALESTINIE CAUSE (EGYPTIANS STILL RESENTFUL OF PLO CRITICISM OF GOE FOREIGN POLICY); B) THERE WILL BE NO PARTIAL OR SEPARATE SETTLEMENT; C) ALL MOVES IN CONNECTION WITHWITHDRAWAL WILL BE PURELY MILITARY IN NATURE; D) DECLARATION OF END OF STATE OF WAR WILL COME ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH FULL SETTLEMENT AT GENEVA; E) EGYPTIANS "WILL NOT GO TO GENEVA BEFORE PARTIES CONCERNED AGREE TO INVITE PLO TO PARTICIPATE AT APPROPRIATE STAGE..THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01879 191634Z

US FAVORS THIS"; F) GOE WILL NOT GO TO GENEVA UNTIL REPLACEMENTS

FOR ALL ARMS LOSSES HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED BY SOVIETS OR BY ANOTHER SOURCE.

2. COMMENT: LAST TWO POINTS ARE NEW: A) INVITATION TO PLO BY "PARTIES CONCERNED" WITH GENEVA. (IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS REFERS TO TWO CO-CHAIRMAN--US AND USSR--OR TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.) B) REFUSAL TO GO TO GENEVA UNTIL EGYPT'S ARMS LOSSES ARE REPLACED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS, FAHMY RESPONDED THAT ITEMS CONTRACTED FOR BEFORE OCTOBER WAR WERE INDEED ARRIVING, AND THAT SUBJECT OF REPLACEMENTS FOR OCTOBER LOSSES WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH BREZHNEV DURING HIS VISIT. IN ANY CASE, FAHMY CONCLUDED, GOE WOULD NOT GO TO GENEVA BEFORE LOSES RECOUPED.

4. FURTHER POINT OF INTEREST IS THAT FONMIN DID NOT VOLUNTEER COMMENT DURING HEARINGS ON KISSINGER'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW IN SPITE OF WEEK OLD PROMISE TO ASSEMBLY TO DO SO. NEITHER, HOWEVER, DID COMMITTEE MEMBERS RAISE THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION, AT LEAST ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTING OF HEARINGS.

5. RESPONDING TO QUESTION ON LIBYA, FAHMY SAID LIBYA REPRESENTS EGYPT'S STRATEGIC DEPTH AND CALLED FOR BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS. AS FOR QUESTION OF QADHAAFI, "IT WILL BE DEALT WITH AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME".

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